

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Lewis and C. I. O. Gain Recognition From Steel Industry and Plan to Tackle Textiles—Neutrality Measure Adopted by Senate.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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YOU'VE got to hand it to John L. Lewis. The beetle-browed leader of the C. I. O. is going places and doing things, despite several setbacks in his plans to unionize all industry. The steel magnates are yielding to a great extent, and the threat of a general strike in that industry is fading out. With the Carnegie-Illinois corporation, largest subsidiary of United States Steel, leading the way, the biggest concerns in that industry are granting increases in wages and the 40 hour week, and agreeing to deal with the unions affiliated with the C. I. O. This is the first time in forty-five years that "Big Steel" has recognized union labor as a bargaining agency for its employees.

Lewis and Philip Murray, chairman of the steel workers' organizing committee, were jubilant, but the Carnegie-Illinois corporation issued an official statement that toned them down a bit.

"The company will recognize any individual, group, or organization as the spokesmen for those employees it represents," the statement said, "but it will not recognize any single organization or group as the exclusive bargaining agency for all employees."

"Under this policy the status of the employee representation plan is likewise unchanged. It will continue as the spokesman for those of the employees who prefer that method of collective bargaining, which has proved so mutually satisfactory throughout its existence."

The General Electric company declared its willingness to discuss a national collective bargaining agreement with the United Electrical Workers, a C. I. O. affiliate; and the indications were that Lewis and the Appalachian coal operators would be able to negotiate a new wage and hour agreement in time to avert a coal miners' strike.

The C. I. O. announced the formation of the United Shoe Workers of America with a nucleus of 20,000 members and went after New England's shoe industry. Still more important, Lewis and his aids let it be known that the next target of the C. I. O. drive would be the textile industry.

Secretary of Commerce Roper and Secretary of Labor Perkins expressed much gratification over recent developments.

That the public, as usual, will have to pay for what the worker gains in all these negotiations was evidenced by the action of the steel companies which announced price increases of \$3 to \$8 a ton for semi-finished and finished steel products.

The sit-down strike policy was tried at Sarnia, Ont., and promptly was given a black eye. Fifty employees of the Holmes foundry there took possession of the plant, but 300 nonstriking workers battled them for two hours, threw them all out and sent nine to the hospital. The police did not interfere with the fight. Shortly after negotiations opened between the Chrysler motor corporation and the United Automobile Workers of America, the union presented resignations of 103 of the 120 employee representatives on work councils in Chrysler plants in the Detroit area. The resignations all said "the great majority of our constituents are heartily in favor of the U. A. W. as the sole bargaining agency to represent them."

Sit-down strikers in the plant of the Fansteel Metallurgical corporation at North Chicago, Ill., who defied court eviction orders, were routed by a force of deputies and police armed with tear gas guns, and were arrested for contempt of court. Also taken into custody was the strike leader, Max Adelman, who had fled to Wisconsin. The strikers and their friends insisted they would prevent the reopening of the plant by strong picket lines and the corporation obtained an injunction against such procedure. The sheriff said he was prepared to deal with any act of violence. This is another C. I. O. strike, and Governor Horner of Illinois gained no glory in his efforts to settle it.

Among the many strikes in the Detroit district was one of 150 employees, mostly girls, of the largest Woolworth store in Detroit. They planned to extend the strike to all other units of the company there, meanwhile keeping the big store closed by the sit-down method.

BUSINESS men and economists again were talking about the prospects of inflation after the decision of the Supreme court upholding the New Deal's gold clause abrogation act for the second time. The ruling was made in the case of the Holyoke Water company, which, moved by a desire to protect itself against loss in the event that the dollar should be debased, had written into leases to the American

Writing Paper company clauses giving it the privilege of demanding from the latter payment in gold coin or bar gold. Now the Holyoke company must be content to accept payment in present depreciated dollars. The court's decision was regarded as removing the last barrier to the free exercise of authority over monetary matters by the administration.

GUESTS at "victory dinners" all over the country heard President Roosevelt deliver at the feast in Washington a preliminary appeal to his party and the nation to support his plan to pack the Supreme court. He said that a crisis exists demanding immediate social and economic legislation to improve the lot of the common man and that there is no time to lose, lest a great calamity, such as a revolution or the advent of a dictatorship, be visited upon the country in the two or three years that might be necessary to remove the obstruction of the New Deal in the manner prescribed by existing law.

Incidentally, Mr. Roosevelt let his hearers understand that he has no intention of seeking a third term in the White House.

OUR War department has finally decided that the autogyro is a good thing—long after European nations reached the same conclusion. Secretary Woodring announced that six autogyros had been purchased for military purposes at a cost of \$238,482. They are the Kellett KDL wingless planes, which have a top speed of 125 miles, a minimum of 16 miles, a cruising speed of 103 miles, and a cruising range of 3½ hours, or 361 miles. The plane is powered with a Jacobs I-4 engine, which develops 225 b. h. p. at 2,000 r. p. m.

The army air command for years resisted suggestions for tests of the autogyro but for the last year it has been tried out by all branches of the army and the report was that it was essential to the modernization of the army.

"FREEDOM of the seas" as an American policy was abandoned by the senate when it passed, by a vote of 62 to 6, the resolution submitted by Senator Key Pittman on behalf of the foreign affairs committee continuing the President's present power to declare an embargo upon the shipments of arms, ammunition and implements of war to belligerent nations.

The measure also provides that the President may declare it unlawful for any American vessel or aircraft to carry to warring nations any articles whatsoever he may enumerate. However, foreign nations may purchase such articles, arms and munitions not included, and transport them to their own countries at their own risk. And the act will not apply to an American republic, such as a South American country, engaged in war against a non-American country provided that the American republic is not co-operating with a non-American state in such a war.

Senators Borah and Johnson fought valiantly against adoption of the resolution but when it came to a vote only four others supported them. These were Austin, Bridges, Gerry and Lodge.

THERE is war on between Mayor Fiorella H. La Guardia of New York and Reichsfuehrer Hitler of Germany. The mayor, addressing a gathering of Jewish women, proposed that a "Hall of Horrors" be erected for the city's 1939 world fair which would include a figure of "that brown-shirted fanatic who is menacing the peace of the world." Hitler himself made no retort but Ambassador Luther was directed to protest to the State department. The Berlin press raged against La Guardia, one of the mildest names applied to him being "scoundrel super-Jew."

AFTER a lively debate the house of commons endorsed Great Britain's huge rearmament program by a vote of 243 to 134. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who outlined the principles of the British foreign policy, repudiated the policy of universal military commitments for Europe as "unworkable" with Germany and other powers absent from the League of Nations.

Next day the navy announced that its share of the rearmament program would cost \$525,325,000, this including the construction of 80 warships. Sir Samuel Hoare, first lord of the admiralty, said only \$135,000,000 of the cost will be borne by Britain's new \$2,000,000,000 defense loan, forcing the nation's tax payers to dip into their pockets for the additional \$390,325,000.

HOW the minimum wage and maximum hour provisions of the outlawed NRA can be re-established was pointed out to congress in a report from the President's committee on industrial analysis. "In my opinion," the President said of the report in a special message, "it will point the way to the solution of many vexing problems of legislation and administration in one of the most vital subjects of national concern."

"If controls of the NRA type are to be tried again," the report said, "experience indicates that the attempt should be limited to a few of the more important industries in order that proper standards of investigation and adequate supervision may be maintained, and should be guided from the start by more definite principles and policies, such as NRA experience indicates would be likely to stand the test of application."

"Under the type of policy finally adopted by NRA, if strongly adhered to, there is little chance that codes would be proposed in such large numbers as to create serious difficulties, but even that chance might be guarded against."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT told the press correspondents that he was planning another fishing trip and hoped to get away late in April. This time he is going after tarpon in the Gulf of Mexico, and he intends to go to New Orleans and there board the Presidential yacht Potomac for a cruise along the Texas coast.

WITH only four votes in the negative, the senate passed the Summers house bill for voluntary retirement of Supreme court justices at the age of seventy on full pay. The four who opposed the measure to the last were Bridges of New Hampshire, Bulow of South Dakota, Johnson of California and Moore of New Jersey. During the debate Senator Johnson declared that "a Supreme court justice who would retire at this particular time, by virtue of the bait that was held out to him, would not be the sort of individual for whom I would have the greatest respect."

The retirement bill was favored by the President but, as Senator Pat McCarran said, was not a part of Mr. Roosevelt's bill for enlargement of the court. The controversy over the latter measure grew more bitter day by day and to the surprise of the administration, it was found that it was likely to be defeated in the house. Therefore the majority leaders decided to let the senate act first. In that body the decision rested with some twenty-five senators who had not yet announced their position.

Mr. Roosevelt stood firm in his determination to force the bill through congress, and announced he would deliver a radio speech in his defense on March 9, the day before the one set for the start of senate judiciary committee hearings on the bill. The President denied a report that he would make a tour of the country in behalf of his plan.

Senator George of Georgia, Democrat, stepped into the fight with an assertion that the Supreme court enlargement proposal is a repudiation of the party's 1938 platform pledge that it would seek a clarifying constitutional amendment if it could not attain its social-economic welfare program by legislation.

In defense of the measure various members of the cabinet and heads of federal agencies began a speaking campaign.

EUGENE VIDAL has resigned as director of the federal air commerce bureau and says he will reënter private aviation. His conduct of the bureau has been subjected to much criticism at times and a committee headed by Senator Copeland of New York has recommended the reorganization of the bureau. Recently the bureau and representatives of the air transport industry have differed sharply over causes of the series of major air crashes.

Vidal's successor is Prof. Fred D. Fagg of Northwestern university law school. He became associated with aviation during the war when he served as a second lieutenant with the ninety-second aero squadron in France. After the war he returned to the United States and specialized in air law. His assistant in the bureau will be Maj. R. W. Schroeder, also of Chicago.

THE International League of Aviators announced in Paris that Howard Hughes, the wealthy American speed flier, and Miss Jean Batten of New Zealand had been awarded the Harmon trophies as the outstanding man and woman in aviation for 1936. Hughes' land-plane records in flights across the United States won the honor for him, and Miss Batten was rewarded for her spectacular solo flight across the south Atlantic.

Louise Thaden was voted the outstanding woman flier in America.

IN IDENTICAL letters to the governors of the 48 states President Roosevelt called on the state legislatures to enact soil conservation laws which would supplement the federal measures designed to lessen the ravages of floods and dust storms.

STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

OVER at the Paramount studio you are just a wallflower if you don't know your American history. Directors, players, authors and any visitors who happen to be around swap stories about pioneer days, and anyone brash enough to mention current events like who won the second race at Santa Anita, or what happened last night at a cafe, is quickly squelched.

To the great success of "The Plainsman" goes the credit—or the blame—for all this pride in the past. The company is so enthusiastic over that picture, and the forthcoming "Maid of Salem" that they are delving into history for their next big production, "I, James Lewis," the story of the early days of the Wells-Fargo express.

Actors are apt to be a pretty gloomy and pessimistic lot when you know them well. They are always worrying because the career of an actor is apt to be short, always pointing out men in the extra ranks who only a few years ago were stars.

Now they have suddenly discovered that their worries were imaginary. Jack Holt, after twenty-four years in pictures, just signed a new contract with Columbia to make six Westerns a year. He is as popular as ever, maybe more so.

For weeks Clark Gable has been completely mystified by receiving high offers for the decrepit old Ford Carole Lombard sent him as a valentine last year. Now the truth is out. A Mr. Brown of Richmond, Virginia, wants to buy it to exhibit at County Fairs. But Clark won't sell unless Carole gives him permission.

Instead of raving about Henry Fonda and Sylvia Sydney in the gripping tragic "You Only Live Once," Hollywoodians come out of the theater making up silly couplets. That is what the company gets for dispensing with grammar in the title. One of Henry's best friends said, "You Live Only Once" may be better grammar, but "You Only Live Once" is elegant dramma." Another one, playing with the same idea, said, "You Live Only Once" may be more grammatical, but "You Only Live Once" is very dramatical.

Susan Fleming thought that she had retired from the screen when she married Harpo Marx, but she made the mistake of stopping in at the studio to have luncheon with her husband, and first thing she knew the director called out. "That girl over there—she's just what I've been looking for." So, she is playing in "A Day at the Races" with her husband and his giddy brothers.

Ginger Rogers is not only the most popular girl in Hollywood these days; she is the most surprising. Night after night she is out dancing with one of her many beaux—Jimmy Stewart, or Cary Grant, or the visiting socialite, Alfred Vanderbilt—but all that gayety hasn't stopped her from breaking into a new career. She has written a song called "I Can't Understand." Maybe you heard Fred Astaire introduce it over the air recently. That is team work for you.

Myrna Loy isn't complaining, but she does think wistfully nowadays of W. S. Van Dyke, and the way he can direct a marvelous picture like "The Thin Man" or its sequel in eighteen or twenty days. She has been working in "Parnell" for three months and the end isn't anywhere in sight. John Stahl, who directed "The Magnificent Obsession" and many other thrilling pictures, is very deliberate about his work, and in making "Parnell" he is just as apt to have Myrna and Clark Gable do scenes over and over as he is to repeat the scenes of minor players.

ODDS AND ENDS: No love scenes have been filmed in any of the studios for the past week and more because of the flu epidemic... with the rest of the country rhapsodizing over spring flowers, Claudette Colbert is surrounded by blizzards, dog teams, and mountains of snow at Sun Valley, Idaho... the eleven most beautiful artist models who usually smile at you from cigarette advertisements have been signed to appear in "Vogues of 1937," a musical Walter Wanger is making.

Well-Dressed at Little Cost



IT WAS some job, Ladies of The Sewing Circle, to get these three lovelies together to pose for the camera this week. They're under the strict tutelage of Dame Fashion just now, learning the latest lessons on how to be well turned out this Spring without benefit of a private mint. You can understand, then, why the co-ed above, center, sort of jumped the gun, so to speak, and was already on her way when the camera clicked.

A Frock That Clicks. Speaking of things clicking, don't think that new princess gown she's wearing isn't doing it in a big way. Can't you see from where you're sitting that it is simple to sew besides being a figure-flatterer of the first order? The buttons half way and a neat little collar in contrast are all its lively lines need to complete the perfect balance—chic vs. simplicity. Take a tip from this stylish student and figure it out for yourself in cashmere or velveteen. The style is 1202 and it can be had in sizes 12-20 (30-38). Size 14 requires 4½ yards of 39 inch material plus ¾ yard contrasting.

Go Print for Spring. The charming young lady above, left, has chosen to model a very dainty and rather picturesque little frock for she believes you'll be interested in this style as a fitting gesture to Springtime. Especially in a modern print, featuring, say, pussycats or deep-sea flowers, would this frock be tempting. The skirt is bias-cut for artistic reasons, and the circles of contrast aid and abet its gracefulness. Let yourself go print then, come Spring. Style 1257 is designed in sizes 12-20 (30-40 bust). Size 14 requires 4½ yards of 39 inch material. Eleven yards of bias binding is required for trimming as pictured.

Gay House or Street Frock. Lest you begin to think every day is Sunday for our starring trio, the trim-looking young lady above, right, wants you to concentrate now on her new gingham gown. Not an ordinary bread-and-butter cotton version, but a beautifully cut, carefully planned dress for general service. The linked button front is enough to give it first place on your Spring sewing list if Sew-Your-Own designers know their clients as well as they think. However, there's more to recommend it: a young

becoming collar, a simple yoke-and-sleeve-in-one construction, and a slender action-built skirt. Put them all together they spell CHIC—that little word with a vast meaning. Style 1267 is for sizes 34-48. Size 36 requires 4 yards of 35 inch material plus 1½ yards contrasting.

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